

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-01 AID-05 EB-08 ICA-11 COME-00 TRSE-00
OES-07 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 ISO-00 L-03 /116 W
-----057849 181429Z /41
P 181241Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2185

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FODAG

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, WFC
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION

REF: ROME 7065

1. FODAG HAS RECEIVED FINAL VERSION OF DOCUMENTS COVERED IN
REFTEL, WHICH WILL BE HANDCARRIED BY WALTERS TO WASHINGTON.

2. AS FINAL VERSION HAS MODIFIED WHAT IS NOW TERMED PROPOSED
ACTION FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION (FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL),
REVISED LANGUAGE GIVEN BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT

25. AT GLOBAL LEVEL, COUNCIL MIGHT EXPRESS ITS CONCERN TO
DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TO INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES,
ESPECIALLY FAO, WORLD BANK, UNDP, IFAD AND REGIONAL BANKS, ABOUT
IMPASSE REACHED TO INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING
NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND MOBILIZATION OF ADEQUATE
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RESOURCES TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION. IT MAY WISH TO
RECOMMEND TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT THEY TAKE MATTER
UP ON URGENT BASIS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE
(DAC) WHERE TRADITIONAL BILATERAL AGENCIES COULD
ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AND WHERE TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF
DAC COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEM. THE ISSUES OF
GREATEST IMPORTANCE ARE:

(A) HOW CAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE, FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE INCREASED?

(B) WHAT ARE CRITICAL IMPEDIMENTS TO DOING SO, BOTH WITHIN BILATERAL COMMUNITY AND IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

(C) HOW CAN GREATER AMOUNTS OF CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED TO COUNTRIES WITH MOST SERIOUS FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEMS? AND

(D) HOW CAN DAC AND BILATERAL AGENCIES DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN HIGH PRIORITY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MOST IN NEED, AND LINK THIS TO MEASURES WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THIS HIGH PRIORITY IS FELT IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS?

26. SINCE NO COMPARABLE FORUM EXISTS FOR BRINGING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THESE SAME ISSUES, AND SINCE THERE ARE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES AMONG REGIONS, COUNCIL MAY WISH TO CONSIDER - SELECTING FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS THREE REGIONAL WORKING PARTIES FOR AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA (OR AN ADDITIONAL REGION IF APPROPRIATE), THAT COULD UTILIZE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACILITIES OF ECOSOC REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS, REGIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA TO ADDRESS FOLLOWING:

(A) HOW CAN PRIORITY FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING LEVEL OF HUMAN NUTRITION BE EFFECTIVELY RAISED AND SUSTAINED WITHIN A CONSISTENT DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

(B) HOW CAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS BE ACCELERATED, AND WHAT ARE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO DOING SO?

(C) HOW CAN IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT BE MORE EFFECTIVELY PRESENTED TO INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND WHAT ELEMENTS IN PRESENT PROCEDURE REQUIRE MOST URGENT CHANGES TO FACILITATE PROCESS? AND

(D) HOW CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MORE EFFECTIVELY BRING

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION TO ATTENTION
OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY?

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-01 AID-05 EB-08 ICA-11 COME-00
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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 L-03 /116 W
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27. BECAUSE OF IMPORTANT ROL THEY PLAY IN THESE ISSUES,
COUNCIL MAY WISH TO

- RECOMMEND TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS,
ESPECIALLY WORLD BANK, REGIONAL BANKS, IFAD, AND
UNDP THAT, TOGETHER WITH FAO, THEY ADDRESS SAME ISSUES
IN APPROPRIATE FORUM OF THEIR CHOOSING. NEW INTERNATIONAL
LENDING INSTITUTIONS COULD BE ASKED TO JOIN THIS EFFORT.

28. COUNCIL MAY ALSO WISH TO

- REQUEST THESE GROUPS TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS TO
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AT ITS FIFTH SESSION; AND TO
FACILITATE THIS;

- REQUEST ITS BUREAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SECRETARIAT
TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES ON THESE
PROPOSALS.

29. WHILE THESE EFFORTS AT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL EVEL ARE
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TAKING PLACE, COUNCIL MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER SIMULTANEOUSLY MORE DIRECT ACTION IN FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SPECIFIC COUNTRY ACTION COULD BE COORDINATED UNDER LEADERSHIP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY BUT WOULD NEED TO BE SUPPORTED BY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES. ACTION AT COUNTRY LEVEL MIGHT TAKE AS STARTING POINT FOOD AND NUTRITION INVESTMENT STRATEGIES COMMENCED UNDER AUSPICES OF CGFPI. COUNTRIES WHICH PRESENTED PRELIMINARY STRATEGIES WERE BANGLADESH, HONDURAS, SENEGAL AND SUDAN. IN DECIDING TO DISBAND CGFPI, SPONSORING AGENCIES--FAO, WORLD BANK, AND UNDP--AGREED TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF THESE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SOME GOVERNMENTS--FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, USA AND UK-- ALSO OFFERED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FURTHER IMPROVE THESE STRATEGIES. A LIMITED NUMBER OF OTHER DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MIGHT JOIN IN UNDERTAKING, BUT NUMBER SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ENSURE SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL RESULTS. COUNCIL MAY WISH TO

- RECOMMEND THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THESE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UNDERTAKINGS, A SELECTED NUMBER OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES UNDERTAKE TO DETERMINE ON BASIS OF EXISTING FOOD AND NUTRITION PLANS, PROGRAMS AND OTHER RELEVANT STUDIES:

(A) BASIC DIMENSIONS OF MINIMUM ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION STRATEGY FOR COUNTRY;

(B) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH STRATEGY WHICH PARTICIPANTS AGREE WARRENT IMMEDIATE SUPPORT;

(C) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER TECHNICAL PREPARATION AND HOW THIS COULD BE DONE;

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(D) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WHICH INVOLVE RECONCILIATION OF POLICY ISSUES AND HOW THIS COULD BE DONE; AND

(E) ADDITIONAL AREAS, IF ANY, IN WHICH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS ARE LACKING AND NECESSARY ACTIONS NEEDED TO PREPARE THEM.

- REQUEST ITS BUREAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND SECRETARIAT TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES REGARDING UNDERTAKING.

END TEXT.

3. FODAG NOTES THAT PRESENT PROPOSAL RADICALLY DIFFERENT
FROM VERSION DISCUSSED WITH WALTERS PREVIOUSLY. IT MAKES
NO MENTION OF ACTIONS REQUIRED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
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